

Edmonton Bulletin.

Vol. XI.

EDMONTON, N.W.T., SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1882.

No. 7.

COURT.

Court opened at ten o'clock, a m., on Thursday. Stipendiary Magistrate Richardson presiding with Capt. Cagnon.

As the criminal cases were not quite ready, they were put off for an hour and the civil cases taken up. Very few of them were ready either. The first civil case tried was

Heiminck vs. Beauchemin, action on promissory note for \$31.64 with interest. Beauchemin did not appear. Judgment for plaintiff for \$33.13.

St. Jean vs. Heiminck came next. This was an action concerning the rent of the building owned by St. Jean and occupied by Heiminck. The claim of St. Jean being disputed by Heiminck. Judgment deferred.

Court then adjourned for an hour.

Immediately after dinner the house moving case, in which Matthew McCauley, Frank Oliver, Joseph Lake, Daniel R. Fraser, William Henderson and Laurence Gurneau were charged with having on the 21st day of February last done certain injury to a house the property of one Joseph McKay Bannerman, by cutting and destroying the same. The prisoners who were put on trial together, pleaded not guilty. The magistrate remarked that this was a very serious charge and that in the interests of both the prisoners and the crown, the law provided that it should be tried with the intervention of a jury of six. A jury was then empanelled as follows: J. Fraser, M. Groat, R. Logan, P. Curran, E. Rowsell, J. Peacock. M. McLeod was called and challenged preemptorily by J. Lake; B. Lee was challenged by Bannerman, and J. A. Macrae objected to serving as he had formed an opinion on the subject so strong that he would not convict on any evidence that could be produced.

G. Blake was present on the 21st of February in the neighborhood of the house in question. Had heard there was to be a disturbance with regard to Bannerman having built a house and homesteaded a piece of ground. Heard the report by general rumor. Went to where the house was standing in rear of the Methodist Church, about three or four hundred yards away from it; saw a crowd collecting, among whom I recognize the gentlemen charged as the defendants. They approached the building, and raised it from the ground on one side with their hands, it being a small shanty building about a quarter of the size of this room, and having placed under the building a pair of bob-sleighs which were lengthened out with a rope or chain to the necessary length, they fastened the building to the sleighs with a rope or chain, attached a team of horses to the sleighs, and after having removed it to a spot in the centre of the town opposite Brown & Curry's store, about a quarter of a mile away from the place where it stood, hurried it over the high bank overlooking the river, with the result to the shanty of total destruction; saw the sleighs returning from the place where the house was thrown over and Henderson and McCauley with them; supposed that the lumber was going to follow the building; did not see them load it; did not see Oliver help to hurl the house over; did not see any one help to throw it over, as I was watching where it was going to light to see what the effect would be.

Donald S. McKay heard a rumor around town that a body of men styling themselves a vigilance committee had been organized and were going to remove Mr. Bannerman's building from the place in which it was located at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Don't know why it was to be removed; the reasons given were that it was said to be a jumping case; came with others to witness the proceedings; saw a number of men collected with a team and sleighs; recognize the prisoners as being amongst them; they loaded the building on the sleighs and drove it away; did not follow them; heard Oliver say that they knew they were breaking the law, but the building would have to be moved; knew the property on

which the shanty stood was claimed by the mission; prosecutors must have known it also; sold Bannerman the lumber used in the building; knew what use Bannerman was going to make of it. In going to the building on two occasions from two different directions passed over a line of fence.

J. R. Burton was at the house moving; saw all the prisoners assisting in moving it by doing something or other; did not see any of them assist in the destruction of the building. Heard Oliver say to Bannerman, "we know we are leaving ourselves liable to the law, but that house must come down," or words to that effect; could not say whether the criminal or civil law was meant; hauled the lumber on the ground for prosecutor, while unloading the lumber heard McCauley forbid prosecutor to build there, as he was occupying the property and had done so for some years and had put improvements on it; heard him also say to prosecutor that if he built the house there it would be removed; prosecutor replied in effect that he did not care, as it would save him the trouble of living in it this winter; saw prosecutor hand a note to McCauley who read it and said to prosecutor that he would telegraph to Ottawa immediately on the subject and if the information in the note was found to be correct, prosecutor would not be molested.

M. McKinnon saw prisoners Lake and Gurneau assisting to remove the building and McCauley coming with a chain on his shoulder; saw no damage done to the building beyond its removal, heard no discourse; saw no personal malice shown against prosecutor.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Rev. John McDougall testified for the defence that the property on which the shanty stood had been taken up 11 years ago by Rev. G. McDougall for the Methodist Missionary Society, witness had control of church affairs in this district; McCauley was in charge of the property with his consent. Drew a diagram showing the position of the shanty on the property.

R. Hardisty had placed McCauley in charge at the request of Rev. A. Sutherland, chairman of the Missionary Society, the diagram drawn by the previous witness was correct.

J. Brewster saw the shanty and knew that it was on the mission claim; it was inside a field that had been enclosed by McCauley and himself last summer on the mission property and used as a pasture; had removed some of the rails in the fall to build a corral with, but the pickets were still standing, most of the rails were there in February last and the line of fence was plainly to be seen.

The prosecutor was asked if he had anything to say to the jury, but made no remarks.

The prisoners being asked, Oliver objected to the witness McKay's evidence in regard to himself, as his evidence at the preliminary examination was that the prisoner had said he knew he was leaving himself liable, whereas now witness testified that he said he knew he was breaking the law, which he certainly did not know, and was not doing, although he knew perfectly well that prosecutor might bring an action for damages against himself and the others. The law relating to the crime for which they were being tried,—malicious injuries to property—provided that nothing contained in it should extend to any case where the party acted under a fair and reasonable supposition that he had a right to do the act complained of. This proviso was contained in a section relating to cases where the damage done was less than twenty dollars. No damage whatever had been proven in this case, no malice had been shown, and it had been clearly demonstrated that the prisoners not only had reasonable grounds for supposing they had a right to do what they did, but that they actually had that right, and on these grounds asked for a clear acquittal for himself and friends.

The Magistrate then charged the jury at some length, laying down in no equivocal

terms the right of ownership to property in this as in other countries. He said that when a person was in rightful occupation of a piece of land he was allowed to exercise the rights of ownership until another could produce a better title to it, and then that other could only displace him by legal process, the occupant having the right at common law to resist with force any forcible encroachment on his rights.

The jury, after a short absence, returned a verdict of not guilty.

This closed Thursday's proceedings.

MAIL arrived Friday evening and leaves Sunday evening.

SERVICE will be held in the Methodist Church, (D.V.) to-morrow, at 10.30 a.m., and 7 p.m.

I AM DESIRED by the Minister of the Interior to warn all parties against jumping Widow McDougall's Claim.

THOS. ANDERSON,
Crown Timber Agent.

DR. MUNRO,

Late House Surgeon Winnipeg General Hospital.

Office under Masonic Hall, Main street.

WM. STIFF,

REAL ESTATE AGENT, ACCOUNTANT AND CONVEYANCER.

Property bought and sold on Commission, Accounts collected, Estates managed for non-residents, Information furnished to Intending Settlers. All correspondence promptly attended to. Office in Masonic Hall buildings.

FOUND.—A brown horse, unbroken, three years old, white face, one white fore leg, no brand. Came to the premises of the undersigned last summer. Owner is requested to prove property, pay expenses and take him away.

R. LOGAN.

\$20 REWARD.

Strayed from Clover Bar, south side of the river, on Tuesday, May 30th, a yoke of working oxen, perfectly quiet. The high ox is six years old, dark brindled color, branded "R.S." on the left hip, had a large bell on when last seen. The off one is a red and white steer, 4 years old, branded on the horn with two crescents, close together. Both had leather halters on. Are supposed to be in the vicinity of Hay Lakes. A reward of \$20 will be paid to any one bringing these oxen to the undersigned, at Clover Bar.

ALEX. FRASER.

STUART D. MULKINS,

NOTARY PUBLIC AND CONVEYANCER.

Coal Claims and Timber Limits located and general information afforded on application.

Thirteen years experience in Manitoba and the North-West.

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Plans and estimates of buildings furnished.

Everything done with neatness and dispatch.

OFFICE—Main Street.

J. G. OLIVER.

McDONALD.

BUTTER BOWLS at Frank Oliver's.

GENERAL NEWS.

Brandon has two chartered banks.
Hard times are said to prevail in California.
The Broadway bridge Winnipeg is to be repaired.

New York has been importing potatoes from Great Britain.

The loss at Fargo from the floods is estimated at \$100,000.

The C.P.R. bridge over the Assiniboine at Brandon has been completed.

Parnell was only released on parole, that he might visit a sick relative in Paris.

The grading done on the Manitoba South-Western railway is said to be very bad.

Winnipeg is to have a "Zoo." Nearly \$30,000 have been subscribed towards it.

Ten thousand emigrants arrived in Chicago in the week ending April 17th. Eight thousand were for Manitoba.

The Great Northern Colonization and Immigration Company apply for six townships in the Prince Albert District.

A new steam tug for the Red River and Lake Winnipeg trade called the Glen Devon was launched at Winnipeg recently.

Very few transfers of Winnipeg real estate are noticed in the Free Press of April 28th. The prices paid, however, are still good.

In the House recently Mr. Blake moved that it was desirable Canada should negotiate her own commercial treaties. It was voted down.

The advance guard of the Primitive Methodist colony for the Qu'Appelle district has arrived in Winnipeg. It consists of 250 persons.

The route through the Kicking Horse Pass will make the main line of the C.P.R. 79 miles shorter, provided the Selkirk range can be pierced.

Five leases and four licenses for timber berths were given last year by the Dominion Government besides 306 temporary permits, in the North-West.

The Licensed Victuallers, or hotel-keepers, Colonization Society has secured a tract of twenty-seven townships in the North-West for colonization purposes.

The C.P.R. Co. have decided not to sell any more large tracts of land to companies but the price to settlers will be the same as formerly. The Government have decided on a similar course.

The Dufferin and Battle River Colonization Company, the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company and the Saskatchewan and Carrot River Farmers Land Company apply for letters patent.

In the transfers of real estate given in the Winnipeg Free Press of April 21st, is mentioned that McManus, Muirhall & McDade sold lot 80 in block 20, Edmonton, to Robert Hooper for \$550. Does anybody here know where that lot is?

Road allowances in township surveys have been reduced from a chain and a half to one chain in width, and three of the east and west roads in a township have been gone away with. This will add three millions of acres to the saleable land in the fertile belt.

Twenty-eight tons of pamphlets relating to the Canadian North-West have been despatched from the Canadian House of Commons this session. Had half as much information been disseminated three years ago the North-West would not now be in the hands of the C.P.R. Co.

From the Free Press of April 21st it appears that the excitement about Edmonton town lots far exceeded anything that has been seen in the real estate business yet. On the 12th of April, while the lots were being disposed of at private sale, the Company's land office became so crowded that business was impracticable. The sale was closed until the next day, when it was opened by auction, and in two hours and a half, after some of the most spirited bidding that had yet been witnessed, 416 lots were sold for a total sum of \$168,680. The lowest price realized was \$215, and the highest \$570; the average being \$405. In 2 days the firm of Walker, Stewart & Co. sold and resold over 800 Edmonton lots at from \$400 to \$600, and private parties sold as high as \$750.

The Catholic Colonization Society has secured a large tract of land in the North-West and intend to colonize it.

Langdon, Shepard & Co. who have the big C.P.R. contract will pay laborers \$2 per day and teams with teamsters \$4.50 per day. Board will be \$4 to \$4.50 per week. Three thousand men and 2,000 teams will be employed. The firm express their intention of offering special inducements to Canadian contractors of experience who own or control teams and outfits. The firm is really too, too awfully kind.

Gen. Hammond manager of the Manitoba South-Western has gone to the States and reports are in circulation to the effect that the road is being sold to the syndicate, and complaints are made that the work done already is not up to the standard. Chief Engineer O'Brien and Hugh Sutherland, directors, publicly deny the report and say that preparations are made to continue building. At present the rails are laid 51 miles out from Winnipeg and the Assiniboine bridge at Headingly is in working order. The track was laid during the winter. Surveys have been made to connect the road with the Casselton branch of the Northern Pacific at St. Joe and it is believed by some that the company intends to push the construction of the road to that point in spite of anything short of actual force on the part of the Dominion Government. In this project they should have the solid backing of all Manitoba.

THE FLOOD.

The last mail brought news of the floods in Manitoba up to the 26th of April. At that time the water had not reached the height mentioned in our Battleford telegram of last week, although considerable damage had been done and much inconvenience sustained. The news sent to us was received by Mr. P. Ballendine in a letter from Brandon dated May 7th, nearly two weeks later than the news received by mail.

The first cause of the flood seems to have been the heavy falls of snow in March, over 25 inches having fallen in the one month. The ice seems to have broken up about the 17th for on the morning of the 19th the river at Winnipeg was partially clear of ice. During the forenoon however enough ice drifted down to form a jam at the Broadway bridge. This raised the water considerably and finally the piers at each end of the draw gave way. At the same time the river was up to Hodge's flat boat store on Notre Dame street and all around the mills and boat yards. The western part of the town was also under water.

Up to the 26th matters had remained about the same in Winnipeg except that the water had lowered considerably in the river and was rising again. The Free Press, however, states incidentally that the city was dotted with tents and that the Board of Trade had telegraphed urgently to J. J. Hill to send on all the provisions lying in cars on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba road consigned to Winnipeg men, and that seventeen car-loads were sent immediately. Railroad trains were run to the south as far as the St. Joe bridge, near Emerson, where the steamer Selkirk made connections with the train south of the line at Hallock station, the track between the two points being in some places four feet under water. The Louise bridge had been shaken somewhat but had sustained no material damage. There had been no great damage done to property in town, the principal part being occasioned by the flooding of the cellars and removal of property and persons from low lying localities. The railroad track to Rat Portage was all right but that between Winnipeg and Brandon was so badly washed out in places and so far under water in others, especially between Winnipeg and the Portage, that the newly constructed air line which crosses Long Lake is to be abandoned temporarily for the old line by Stonewall and Ossawa. At last accounts the Assiniboine had not broken at Winnipeg but had further up and was rising rapidly with heavy rains. The water was two feet over the road at Willow creek between DeWinton and Chater stations and the bridge was gone. The new grading west of Brandon was also in danger. The White Mud River was also rising and causing some destruction of property.

A. MACDONALD & CO.,

WHOLESALE and RETAIL

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Are offering for Cash and Trade

BALANCE OF THEIR STOCK

—at—

REASONABLE RATES,

Previous to the arrival of a large consignment

—of—

NEW AND FASHIONABLE GOODS

selected particularly

For the Edmonton and North-West Trade

AND

BOUGHT IN A CASH MARKET.

The new firm requests a call from all intending purchasers.

A. MACDONALD,

W. S. BOWEN,

JOHN CAMERON.

LOCAL.

REV. PERE LACOMBE left Winnipeg for St. Albert on the 15th of May.

REPORT has it that the site which has been selected for the cemetery is infested with snakes.

W. ROWLAND started for Athabasca Landing on Thursday with twelve carts of H.B.Co. freight.

DR. MUNRO got back from Victoria on Wednesday night. He left Mr. Secord doing as well as could be expected.

BETWEEN thirty and forty rafts of saw logs have arrived from up the river for the H.B.Co. They are mostly in twelve foot lengths.

LIEUT.-COL. MACKENZIE, who was in charge of the Mounted Police recruits bound for the North-West, died suddenly of heart disease in Toronto.

DAN NOYES got down with two rafts on Tuesday night last. One of them was the one left up the river on the former trip. Only three logs of it were lost. He has brought down 1,000 logs now and has 1,500 more to bring.

ON Friday last as Mr. John Secord, Methodist Mission school teacher at Victoria was out hunting, the gun he was carrying was accidentally discharged and the shot entered his left arm and side at the arm pit. Dr. Munro left on Sunday, to attend to the case.

MESSRS. McRae Lloyd, Hayes and McCorister arrived at Slave Lake post on the 25th of May. Their three oxen had arrived on the opposite side of the lake ten days before, but the lake was too high to swim them across and they had to remain on the south side until they could be brought across in a boat or else be driven around the head of the lake.

D. M. McDUGALL, Rev. John McDougall and party arrived from Bow River on Saturday last. They left Morley on the previous Tuesday forenoon. They report the streams fordable but rising, and the roads better than they have been for two years. The party from Edmonton arrived at Bow River on Monday, the day before the Messrs. McDougall left.

THE Catholic Colonization Society, under the auspices of Archbishop Tache, will colonize two townships in the Diocese of St. Boniface and three in that of St. Albert. The latter townships will be taken one on the south side of the Saskatchewan at the mouth of the Vermillion Creek and two, one on each side of the river at the abandoned mission of St. Paul's below Victoria.

THE case of the woman Scholastique Cardinal, of Lac la Biche, indicted for concealment of birth, was disposed of by Col. Richardson at Ft. Saskatchewan on Tuesday. She was tried summarily and pleaded guilty. Sentence deferred. In the meantime she was reprimanded and released, the magistrate taking the view that she probably did not know she was committing a crime in doing as she did. Had she been sentenced to jail there was no place suitable for her accommodation in the district.

MILES McDERMOT arrived from Lesser Slave Lake on Tuesday last. He brought some of his finer furs with him but the bulk of his winter trade he left at Slave Lake, not having sufficient means of transport to bring them out. He will go to Duck Lake and perhaps further east for a new supply of goods. He reports that Dan Carey, a Peace River trader, and a half breed named Bourassa are being brought in for trial at the present sittings of the court, the latter on a charge of having deserted the employment of the H.B.Co. and the former with having enticed him to do so. The trip out occupied fifteen days. There was great starvation among the Indians at Slave Lake last winter on account of a scarcity of moose and fish. A great many of the horses died owing to the deep snow, which was four feet deep in March. When this melted it caused a general freshet and had a bad effect on the spring catch of beaver. Fur trade during the winter, however, was good.

D. McLEOD, W. S. Robertson and M. McKinnon got back from Bow River on Tuesday last, four days and a half from Calgary. They delayed half a day at the Red Deer waiting for McLeod's herd of cattle to

cross on their way to Edmonton. The Red Deer was still fordable. H. Myers, who went from here to settle at the crossing had not stopped there, but went on to Bow River. The surveyors are still at work in the Kicking Horse Pass and expect to be employed three years. Very little supplies had arrived from Benton, but there were plenty on the south side of the Belly River unable to cross on account of high water. Four bull teams loaded with 70,000 pounds of oats for the police arrived shortly before the party left Calgary. The C. P. R. survey had their supplies—80,000 pounds—in last fall. Shaw's party are not at the Crow's Nest Pass, but at Medicine Hat at the mouth of the Seven Persons Creek running a trial line to the Crow's Nest Pass. One hundred more police were expected to arrive at Calgary on Wednesday of last week. The mail comes to Morley from the south every three weeks. The Bow River was high and a large boat answered the purpose of a ferry scow, rates \$1.00 for single rig and 50 cents for a foot passenger. Other streams were low and the water clear. Trout fishing was excellent. A saw mill is being erected at Calgary by the Cochrane Co.; the machinery is being brought in by way of Benton. About one thousand logs have been got out on and brought down the Elbow River. They are of very good quality. The Cochrane Co. had twenty men employed rounding up the cattle, breaking horses, etc. Very few of the cattle were on the range. The company are putting in a small crop. It is reported that they have had disputes with Livingstone, a rancher on the Elbow River, about his cattle coming on their range and warned him to keep his cattle off. He promised to do so if they would fence in their range. He has a hundred head of cattle and the Cochrane range comes close up to his ranch. The Co. have offered him \$5,000 to sell out. He wants \$7,500. Gen. Strange, of Kingston, who is said to have \$25,000 invested in the Cochrane Ranch, and a gentleman from Australia named Webb, have secured a 21st year's lease of 92,000 acres of land on the north side of the Bow River, opposite the mouth of High River, for grazing purposes.

TROUBLE AT CYPRESS.

IN the latter end of April a party of Crees, supposed to be from Cypress, made a raid on the South Piegan south of the line and stole a large number of horses, getting away all right. On their return trip they passed a bull train in camp on its way to McLeod. They took the liberty of going through it for provisions and ammunition to the amount of about \$200, while the men were asleep. A quantity of whiskey in the same wagon with the goods stolen was left untouched, but a trunk belonging to a lady on her way to Ft. McLeod to be married was pillaged mercilessly.

EARLY in May a party of Crees from Cypress stole horses from the Bloods on Belly River. A small war party started out and caught up to the Crees, but in the fight that ensued the Bloods were defeated, one of the party being killed and another wounded so badly that he died shortly after he got home.

THE Cypress Crees encouraged by the success of their former raid, made another expedition against the Bloods and got away with another large band of horses. A few of the Bloods came to Ft. McLeod and complained to Capt. Denny, Indian Agent, of the theft and asked provisions and assistance from the police in order to look up and recover the stolen stock. The agent gave them provisions and sent a request to the police at Cypress to assist them in recovering their horses. Instead of a few of them going peaceably, however, a war party 90 strong started for Cypress in pursuit of the Crees and evidently intending bloodshed.

A REPORT arrived from Battleford this week, brought by the mail carrier from Cypress, to the effect that a skirmish had occurred between some of the police and Indians there and that four of the police had been killed and the rest so hard pressed that they were glad to escape with their lives. Also that an urgent telegram had been sent requesting that the 200 recruits in Ontario should be sent out as quickly as possible. On account of this report Col. Herchmer remained at Battleford instead of coming to Edmonton as he had previously intended.

JAMES ROSS,

TINSMITH.

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First class weekly and daily board at reasonable rates.

J. GOODBRIDGE,
Proprietor.

X ST. JEAN,

CABINET MAKER.

Steam Furniture Factory in rear of Heiminck's store, Main St.

All descriptions of household furniture kept constantly on hand.

DOMINION DAY.

EDMONTON DISTRICT RACES AND SPORTS WILL BE HELD ON THE RACE COURSE, EDMONTON, COMMENCING 10 A.M., 1ST JULY.

FOOT RACES.

1st. 1 mile race, open to all, entrance \$1.00; 2nd, half mile race, open to all, entrance \$1.00; 3rd, quarter mile race, open to all, entrance \$1.00; 4th, 200 yds., open to all, entrance \$2.00; 5th, 100 yds., open to all, entrance \$3.00; 6th, 100 yds. open to boys from 11 to 15 years old, entrance free; 7th, 100 yards, open to boys from 8 to 10 years old, entrance free; 8th, squaws race, entrance free.

JUMPING.

Standing long jump, running long jump, standing high jump, vaulting with pole, entrance \$1.00 to each.

Throwing cricket ball, entrance \$1.00.

Tug of war, squaws, entrance free.

AFTERNOON.

HORSE RACES.

1st, One mile dash, entrance \$3.00; 2nd, Quarter mile, in heats, 3 entries or no race, entrance \$2.00, weight 100 lbs up; 3rd, half mile, in heats, 100 lbs up, entrance \$2.00; 4th, slow race, half mile, entrance \$1.00; 5th, trot to buckboards or waggons, half mile heats, entrance \$2.00; 6th, dash of quarter mile, open to all horses hitched in genuine Red River carts, entrance \$1.00; consolation race open beaten horses, entrance free.

The following horses are considered too good to enter any but the mile race, Boston Boy, Little Angus, Vallandingham and Mr. S. Cunningham's sorrel.

Programmes will be issued containing value of purses and general information before races take place.

The committee request that parties desirous of entering horses in any of the above races will send name of horse and entrance fee to any member of committee before 27th June.

Parties from a distance can enter on morning of race. This rule applies to other sports.

STUART D. MURKIN, Sec'y-Treas.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Tenders for the following supplies, to be delivered at the Mounted Police barracks at Ft. Saskatchewan will be received by the undersigned up to noon on the 20th day of June, 1882. BEEF, 15,000 lbs., to be delivered as required, commencing 1st July next, and continuing to 30th June, 1883. POTATOES, 6,000 lbs., to be delivered on or before 10th October. OATS, 20,000 lbs., to be delivered one quarter during September and balance during October. HAY, 500 lbs., to be delivered in September. HAY, 100 tons, upland, to be cut in July, and delivered, one quarter during August, and balance during September and October. STRAW, 10 tons, to be delivered in November.

The person to whom the contract is awarded will be required to furnish satisfactory securities, and to execute such formal contract as may be required. The lowest or any other tender not necessarily accepted.

REV. GAGNON, Inspector.

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

is published every Saturday morning at the office, Main Street, Edmonton.

Subscription price, \$2.00 for 26 issues, or six months.

Advertising rates: Five lines, three insertions, \$1.00; Transient advertisements, four cents a line each insertion.

Season advertisements \$1.00 per line.

OLIVER & DUNLOP,
Proprietors.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, JUNE 17, 1882.

THE BOOM.

The London Free Press of April 29th has an item sent by special telegraph from its own correspondent in Winnipeg, under date of April 16th, as follows:

"A Busted Boom.—Collapse of a real estate swindle at Winnipeg.—The real estate boom which set in here during the past week by the placing of the Edmonton town site on the market, by A. W. Ross and the Hudson Bay Company, has collapsed. It was an outrageous swindle. As before reported, over five hundred lots were sold in two days at prices ranging from \$250 to \$400 each. Further particulars shortly."

If the Free Press had informed us in what way this sale was an outrageous swindle and what had caused its collapse no doubt its many readers in other places as well as Edmonton would have been infinitely obliged, but as it stands it leaves us entirely in the dark. Was the swindle in the lots not being in existence, or in the parties selling not having the right to sell them, or was it in the fact of a lot of would be sharpers having paid more for the lots than they were actually worth for business purposes at the time? There can be no doubt as to the existence of the lots, nor of the fact that they are on the site of an actual town, and well suited for building on, neither is there any doubt that the Hudson Bay Company had a perfect title to the land. The only supposition that remains is that the purchasers, who at the time of buying thought they were getting the lots cheap, afterwards changed their minds and concluded that they had paid too much for them. There is no doubt that those who bought did so, not on what they knew the town to be but on what they expected it to be in a short time—not on the use they expected to make of the lots, but on the price they expected to realize from others who wished to use them, when the town should have grown. That they have changed their opinion of the value of the lots since they purchased is nobody's fault but their own. They are just as valuable, the town site just as eligible, the natural resources of the place just as large and varied and its prospects as good as they have ever been, and aside from speculation the lots are steadily rising in real value.

Where the swindle comes in we fail to see. If a man buys a promising looking colt at a fancy price expecting him to turn out a racer, he has no right to complain when he finds that he has only bought a colt and not a full grown horse. So if a man buys a town lot on speculation he has no right to complain if he finds it is not in the heart of a city, or, what is worse, that no one will give him as much as he paid for it at once. Every one here believes that in the future the lots sold will be worth the money paid for them, some perhaps a little less and some no doubt a great deal more, but no one would be willing to pay any such price for them at the present time for present use. A few of them have a reasonably high commercial value now but any man must be silly to suppose that on

a town site 3,000 acres in extent where the most valuable lots only sell for \$400, the least valuable should be worth over \$250. The fact that there was such a small range in prices shows clearly that the desire for speculation pure and simple was the sole cause of purchasing. The buyer not only gambled on the growth of the town but also on the town growing up around his particular lot.

That the Edmonton boom has burst we readily believe. That the boom at Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Emerson and every other town and village in Manitoba and the North-West is bound to burst soon, if it has not done so already, we are perfectly certain. Owing to a large immigration and other causes the value of land of all kinds in the North-West has risen rapidly in value during the last year or two, but for every dollar the real value has increased the speculative price has risen five and this process has gone on until all hopes of the boom being made solid by the increase in real value have been given up, and it has been no secret for some time past that the burst was but a short distance ahead. The backward spring in Manitoba, and the flooding of the country along the Red River may have hastened the collapse. But whether they have done so or not the boom has reached such a pitch that it cannot last much longer in any case. It cannot stand still now, it cannot shrink gradually. As soon as money ceases to be poured into it to increase its size, the crash will come. Then the North-West will be execrated by thousands who are now loudest in praises of it and will be blamed for ruining many who ruined themselves by deliberately buying and paying for what they knew was of little or no value, expecting to sell again to some fool greater than themselves or to some speculator who was willing to take greater risks.

But the ruin of speculators does not include by any means the ruin of the country. Of course many who do not deserve to will feel the injury but the acre will yield as many bushels of wheat, or pasture as many head of cattle as ever, and the man who sticks closely to his legitimate business, content with the increase in value of the property he is actually using need not care whether the speculator loses his pile or not. The actual money has been brought into the country, and to a great extent will remain for the benefit of those who honestly earn their livings. It is simply tit for tat. A boom arises and speculators from other places invest their wealth intending that others shall do the work and they make the money. The boom bursts and the workers get the money while the speculators get nothing. In many cases were they able to hold on they would ultimately get their money back, but the prospects of so many places have been discounted so far ahead that few will be able to hold on—will be obliged to sell at a loss—and will lose not only all chance of profit but part of the capital invested.

Outside of the boom the prospects of Edmonton are second to those of no place in Manitoba or the North-West, except Winnipeg. The boom as far as it has gone has left a large amount of money here of which every dollar has been invested and if it has burst utterly and lots can not now be sold in Winnipeg for a cent apiece the matter will concern very few of the people here. They have not been in the real estate business. The boom started too suddenly and went ahead too rapidly for them to invest. Few if any of the H.B.Co. town lots are held by residents, as most of those who held them realized long ago and people generally would be rather pleased than otherwise if the price would come down within reaching distance once

more. Every one has fuller confidence in the solid future of the town and district now than he had three months ago, and boom or no boom, each and all firmly believe that Edmonton is one of the places that was, is, and is bound to be, let other people think what they may.

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